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more gruel centres but also substantial food centres, so that the people's resistance power could be raised and the incidence of cholera might, to an extent, be cut short?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" We are here concerned with gruel centres. As for food centres, it can be considered separately. I may inform the hon. Member that there are 407 gruel centres working in the Cuddapah district."

SRI P. VENKATASUBBAYYA :—" Sir, will the Government direct the Collector to open gruel centres in the places selected by the Taluk Famine Committees?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I cannot say about the Taluk Famine Committees. But the Collectors have got the absolute discretion to open new gruel centres wherever the need arises."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" The hon. Member, Mr. Sivarami Reddi, who put the question, said that 25 gruel centres in the Cuddapah district had been closed. In view of this information, will the Hon. Minister pay a special visit to this district and find out for himself whether the report supplied to him by the officials, or the report given by the hon. Member here, is correct?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I wonder why the hon. Member requires me to go to Cuddapah to see whether gruel centres are closed. I can as well find out here and my information is about a week old and I do not think anything untoward would have happened during the course of one week."

SRI M. DHARMALINGAM :—" Will the Hon. Minister tell us whether it is a fact that gruel centres must be opened only in places where the Congress got full support in the last General Elections?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Sir, politics has nothing to do with gruel centres."

Protection to groundnut crops.

* 169 *Q.*—SRI N. MAHALINGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of the fact that a certain worm (kampilipulu) destroys the groundnut crops year after year in Pollachi taluk; and

(*b*) if so, what steps they have taken in the matter and propose to take to eradicate the same?

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" (*a*) The pest, namely, kampilipulu is the red hairy caterpillar of groundnut which seappears sporadically and not every year in the Pollachi taluk.

" (*b*) Treatment of the crop by dusting or spraying with Benzene Hexachloride was found to be effective in controlling the pest when the caterpillars were young. With this insecticide an area of 76 acres was successfully tackled in Pollachi, Bhavani and Erode in the year 1950. In 1951 also, an area of 57 acres was successfully treated in Avanashi, Bhavani and Bogi. Sufficient quantities of the insecticides and appliances required are stocked in the Taluk Agricultural Depots in Pollachi taluk and elsewhere to meet the demands of the ryots. The Plant Protection staff are helping the ryots in combating the pest and the local District Agricultural Officer has been instructed to take timely action whenever the incidence of the pest is noticed."

SRI N. MAHALINGAM :—" Is the pest prevalent all over the State? "

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" It is not always that the pest is prevalent all over the State."

SRI V. K. RAMASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Wherever such cases are reported, the Agricultural Department take their own time to go to these places. Inasmuch as there is a lot of delay, will the Government issue strict instructions to these people to proceed to the spot immediately and take effective and quick action? "

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" Sir, the trouble is not with the officers of the Agricultural Department at all. When the bug (kampilipulu) is small and is less than 15 days old, it can be tackled. But when it puts on hair all over its body after 15 days, it becomes too difficult to control even with the help of Benzene Hexachloride. If the cultivator is alert enough to notice the bug before it is 15 days old, then the treatment becomes easy. The Agricultural Depots will have stock of this insecticide and it is available in almost all the depots in Madras."

SRI S. JAYARAMA REDDIYAR :—" The Hon. Minister, in his answer, said that the pest (kampilipulu) could be controlled by spraying with Benzene Hexachloride. We, in Ramanathapuram district, are completely in the dark about the existence of this insecticide. Will the Hon. Minister be pleased to take effective steps to propagate this insecticide all over the districts? "

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" The Department has already taken steps to give this information to the cultivators through its various channels."

11 a.m. SRI V. GOPALA GOUNDER :—" Sir, are the Government aware that this pest is universal in all the districts where groundnut is grown; and if so, will they issue instructions to the agricultural officers to eradicate this evil? "

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" The evil cannot be eradicated completely. If that were possible it would have been done. It can be eradicated only after its presence is

found out. It is true, it is prevailing in all places where groundnut is grown. If the cultivator is alert enough and watchful then he can see that something is eating the groundnut leaves. That is a sure sign of the presence of the pest. Immediately he can go to the nearest Agricultural Demonstrator and seek his help. There are spraying machines and dusting machines kept with the taluk demonstrator. The agriculturist can secure them and make use of them. It costs only Rs. 6 or 7 per acre to do so."

SRI A. GOVINDASWAMI NAYAGAR :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government will extend the anti-pest operations to South Arcot district, since that district is the granary of groundnut in the south?"

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member may put a separate question."

SRI K. ARANGANATHAN :—தென்னாற்காடு ஜில்லாவில் மணிலா சாகுபடி செய்யும் நில விஸ்தீரணம் மிக அதிகமாக இருப்பதால் . . . ."

MR. SPEAKER :—" The hon. Member will put a separate question. If each hon. Member puts a question with reference to his own district, and if I am to allow them all, there will be no end to that. The present question relates to Pollachi taluk."

SRI T. VISWANATHAM :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister was pleased to say that the agriculturist must be intelligent enough to find out the pest before the worm puts on hair, and at the same time he said that the demonstrators are there to help them. Sir, will it not be possible for the intelligent demonstrator to anticipate the coming of the pest and do the needful in the matter as all agriculturists are not as intelligent as the Hon. Minister wants them to be?" (Laughter.)

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" I said nothing about the intelligence of the agriculturist at all. I know our cultivators are very intelligent. I said, if they are alert enough to find out the presence of the worm before they are two weeks old, it would be possible to bring the pest under control soon. Nobody can anticipate the coming in of the bug."

SRI N. MAHALINGAM :—" Are the Government aware that more than three thousand acres under groundnut have been affected this year by this pest?"

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" Where are those acres situated?"

SRI N. MAHALINGAM :—" In Pollachi taluk."

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" In Pollachi taluk in the Taluk Demonstrator's office as well as in the District Agricultural office, there are spraying machines and also this dust. They can be taken by the cultivator and used. As a matter of fact, in areas where this pest regularly appears, it is better

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for the cultivator to own and keep both the sprayer and a little bit of this dust as a precaution against the appearance of this pest."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" Are the Government aware of the fact that in most cases, or may I say, in almost all cases, the agricultural preventive officer appears on the stage only to kill the worms after the worms have killed the crops entirely ? " (Laughter.)

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" Sir, we have lakhs and lakhs of acres under groundnut in this State; in some districts there are lakhs of acres under this crop, and so it would not be reasonable on our part to expect either the demonstrator or the District Agricultural Officer to notice where the bug is coming in, in any one of the fields. I submit it is the duty of the cultivator, who has after all only a small acreage under this crop, to take care of his crop."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Even when the injury done by the worm is brought to the notice of the agricultural demonstrators at once, are the Government aware that the movement of these officers is unequal to the movement of the worm? " (Laughter.)

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" Sir, the caterpillar moves very slowly."

Receipts under sales tax and commercial tax from Pudukkottai Division.

* 170 *Q.*—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Rural Welfare be pleased to state the amount of receipts under sales tax and commercial tax from Pudukkottai division of Tiruchirappalli district each year since Pudukkottai's merger in Madras State?

THE HON. SRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO :—" The information required by the hon. Member is given in the statement [a], copies of which have been laid on the table of the House."

Representations from the ryots of the enclaved villages of Partala.

* 171 *Q.*—SRI V. RAMA RAO : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representations from the ryots of the enclaved villages of Partala of Agir (Krishna district) that the arrears of land rent for the fasli 1358 be postponed; and

(*b*) if so, what action was taken?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) No.

" (*b*) Does not arise."

[a] Printed as Appendix I on page 895 supra.